The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

From Saturday September 14. to Tuesday September 17. 1717.

Whitehall, September 15.

COmplaint having been made to His Majesty, by great Numbers of Merchants, Masters of Ships, and others, as well as by the several Governours of His Majesty's Islands and Plantations in the West-Indies, that the Pirates are grown so numerous that they infest not only the Seas near Jamaica, but even those of the Northern Continent of America; and that unless some effectual Means be used, the whole Trade from Great Britain to those Parts will not only be obstructed, but in imminent Danger of being lost: His Majesty has, upon mature Deliberation in Council, been graciously pleased, in the first Place, to order a proper Force to be employed for suppressing the said Piracies; which Force so to be employed is as follows:

'A List of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels employed, 'and to be employed, at the British Governments 'and Plantations in the West-Indies.

Place where.	Rate.	Ships.	Guns.	
Jamaica	5	Adventure	40	Now there.
		Diamond	40	Sailed from hence thither the 5th of last Month.
		Ludlow-Castle	40	Preparing to carry the Governour.
	Sloop	Swift	6	Now there.
	6	Winchelsea	20	Surveying the Coasts of the West Indies, and then to return home; but during her being at Jamaica, is to join the others for Security of the Trade, and intercepting the Pirates.
Barbados	5	Scarborough	30	Now there.
Leeward Islands.	6	Seaford	20	Now there.
	Sloop	Tryal	6	Now there.
Virginia	6	Lyme	20	Now there.
	5	Shoreham	30	Order'd home.
		Pearl	40	Sailed thither from hence the 7th of last Month, and is to cruise about the Capes.
New York	6	Phœnix	20	Now there.
New-England		Squirrel	20	Now there.
		Rose	20	Order'd home.

'Those at Jamaica, Barbadoes, and the Leeward 'Islands, are to join upon Occasion, for annoying 'the Pirates, and the Security of the Trade: And 'those at New-England, Virginia, and New-York, 'are to do the like.

And that nothing may be wanting for the more effectually putting an End to the said Piracies, His Majesty has also been graciously pleased to issue the following Proclamation.

By the King,

A PROCLAMATION,

For Suppressing of PIRATES.

GEORGE R.

WHereas we have received Information, that several Persons, Subjects of Great Britain, have, since the Twenty fourth Day of June, in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and fifteen, committed divers Piracies and Robberies upon the high Seas in the West-Indies, or adjoining to our Plantations, which hath and may occasion great Damage to the Merchants of Great Britain, and others, trading into those Parts; and though we have appointed such a Force as we judge sufficient for suppressing the said Piracies, yet the more effectually to put an End to the same, we have thought fit, by and with the Advice of our Privy Council, to issue this our Royal Proclamation; and we do hereby promise and declare, that in case any of the said Pirates shall, on or before the fifth Day of September, in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and eighteen, surrender him or themselves to one of our Principal Secretaries of State in Great Britain or Ireland, or to any Governour or Deputy Governour of any of our Plantations or Dominions beyond the Seas, every such Pirate and Pirates so surrendring him or themselves, as aforesaid, shall have our gracious Pardon of and for such his or their Piracy or Piracies, by him or them committed before the fifth Day of January next ensuing. And we do hereby strictly Charge and Command all our Admirals, Captains, and other Officers at Sea, and all our Governours and Commanders of any Forts, Castles, or other Places in our Plantations, and all other our Officers Civil and Military, to seize and take such of the Pirates who shall refuse or neglect to surrender themselves accordingly. And we do hereby further declare, that in case any Person or Persons, on or after the sixth Day of September, One thousand seven hundred and eighteen, shall discover or seize, or cause or procure to be discovered or seized, any one or more of the said Pirates, so neglecting or refusing to surrender themselves, as aforesaid, so as they may be brought to Justice, and convicted of the said Offence, such Person or Persons so making such Discovery or Seizure, or causing or procuring such Discovery or Seizure to be made, shall have and receive as a Reward for the same, viz. for every Commander of any Pirate Ship or Vessel the Sum of One hundred Pounds; for every Lieutenant, Master, Boatswain, Carpenter, and Gunner, the Sum of Forty Pounds; for every inferior Officer the Sum of thirty Pounds; and for every Private Man the Sum of twenty Pounds. And if any Person or Persons belonging to, and being Part of the Crew of any such Pirate, Ship or Vessel, shall, on or after the said sixth Day of September One thousand seven hundred and eighteen, seize and deliver, or cause to be seized or delivered, any Commander or Commanders of such Pirate Ship or Vessel, so as that he or they be brought to Justice, and convicted of the said Offence, such Person or Persons, as a Reward for the same, shall receive for every such Commander the Sum of two hundred Pounds; which said Sums the Lord Treasurer, or the Commissioners of our Treasury for the Time being, are hereby required and directed to pay accordingly.

Given at our Court at Hampton-Court, the fifth Day of September, 1717, in the fourth Year of our Reign.

God save the King.

And whereas it has also been represented to His Majesty, that in March, 1705-6, the House of Lords did in an Address to Her late Majesty set forth, 'That the French and Spaniards had twice, during that War, over-run and plundered the Bahama Islands; that there was no Form of Government there; that the Harbour of the Island of Providence might be easily put in a Posture of Defence, and that it would be of dangerous Consequence should those Islands fall into the Hands of an Enemy; wherefore the Lords humbly besought her Majesty to use such Methods as she should think proper, for taking the said Islands into her Hands, in order to secure the same to the Crown of this Kingdom, and to the Security and Advantage of the Trade thereof; But that there were not any Means used, in Compliance with that Address, for securing the said Bahama Islands; and that at this Time the Pirates have a Lodgement with a Battery on Harbour-Island, one of the Bahamas; as also that the usual Retreat and general Receptacle for Pirates is at Providence, the Principal of those Islands: His Majesty has been further graciously pleased to give Directions for dislodging those Pirates who have taken Shelter in the said Islands, as well as for securing those Islands, and making Settlements and a Fortification there, for the Safety and Benefit of Trade and Navigation in those Seas for the future.

Vienna,